

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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MAYOR
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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
ROBERT MERRIKEN
ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
PARKER J. DURHAM
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
JERRY L. RHUE, SR.

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING March 9, 2015 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the meeting of March 9, 2015, to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Hurlock Town Office located at 311 Charles Street. Following the Pledge of Allegiance Councilman Charles Cephas said the opening prayer. The roll call was then taken. Those in attendance were: Council members Parker Durham, Bonnie Franz, Charles Cephas, Earl Murphy, Attorney Robert Merriken, Mayor Joyce Spratt, and Administrator John Avery. Councilman Rhue was absent.

Councilman Durham made a Motion to approve the Agenda, with the addition of one item under Old Business. The item was a Memorial Park Report. Councilwoman Franz seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the agenda was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0.

The minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting were approved with one correction. Councilman Durham wanted to make a correction stating **his house is under contract not sold**. With the correction made, Councilman Cephas made a Motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Durham seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the minutes with the correction was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0.

County Councilman Rick Price Report – County Councilman Price was unable to attend the meeting. He gave a report to Mayor Spratt to read. (Please see attached).

Mayor's Report – Mayor Spratt presented an award to Hurlock Police Officer PFC. Davonta Waterford for saving the life of a little girl at Hurlock Elementary School two years ago. Officer Waterford gave the little girl new clothes and a new bicycle and the officer was asked to be her Godfather.

Mayor Spratt announced that a letter regarding the Town's sidewalks was sent out. The Town Office had received complaints regarding citizens that had not cleaned the snow off of their sidewalks. The problem seems to have been solved, as the sidewalks were cleared after the last snow.

The Town has offered to do the Hurlock Fire Department's banquet this year. The banquet will be held this Saturday.

Ground breaking for the new Solar Facility will take place in approximately four weeks.

There are still questions from citizens regarding Natural Gas for the Town. Mayor Spratt and Administrator Avery may be having a meeting regarding this issue on Tuesday. The town has received 70 responses from over 700 notices sent out. Mayor Spratt stated she felt the Town has done all they can do at this time.

The Mayor announced there will be a big business coming to the Provident State Bank Building.

Department Reports – Administrator Avery commented on what a great job the Public Works Department did with snow removal.

Police Department – Chief of Police Les Hutton presented an annual report. Over the past year shop lifting has been a big problem. Most of the assaults that took place were domestic. Chief Hutton stated he felt overall, the Town of Hurlock is a very safe town. Chief Hutton further stated a Hurlock Police Officer has been assigned to work with the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office and Cambridge city police doing narcotics investigations. Chief Hutton also spoke how the Town is using its Safe Streets Initiative funding obtained from a state grant last November to help fight violent crime. The money is used to pay overtime to officers.

Councilman Cephas stated he felt the Hurlock Police Officers are doing a very good job and appreciates that the officers get out of their cars and into the community. He said the citizens of Hurlock should be very proud of the police department.

Mayor Spratt commented on a banquet held in Cambridge that was for the Cambridge Police Department and Sheriff's Department. She stated that Cambridge holds the banquet for these departments every year and she is going to see if Hurlock can be included next year.

Old Business – Ordinance 2015-4 Floodplain Management Ordinance - The ordinance was discussed and approved at the last meeting with a maximum accessory structure size of 600 square feet. However, Attorney Merriken stated the square footage of the accessory structure must be changed back to a maximum of 300 square feet and added that the Town Administrator may be appointed by the Mayor as Floodplain Manager. A vote was attempted on the Ordinance, but Attorney Merriken checked the Charter which stated that a vote could not be held on an emergency ordinance without all Councilmembers in attendance. Ordinance 2015-4 was introduced, but now can be voted on at the next meeting without being an emergency ordinance.

Councilman Murphy make a Motion to defer the issue of the Veteran's Memorial Park until such a time as additional property is acquired by the Town. The Council could then as a whole,

approve the property. Councilwoman Franz seconded the Motion. There was discussion regarding whether the subject would have to be approved by a Motion. Mayor Spratt said it should wait until all the committees come back with suggestions. . Councilman Murphy stated the Mayor is on board with the idea and now it is just a matter of finding suitable property. There was much discussion on this matter regarding having a work shop and parking, etc. Attorney Merriken advised amending the Motion as the Council will have to decide on any use of Town property. Councilman Murphy withdrew his Motion. More discussion ensued regarding having the memorial at the ball field. The motion to consider 202 S. Main St. failed after Councilman Durham abstained, Councilwoman Franz voted nay, Councilmen Murphy and Cephas voted yea. Attorney Merriken stated the vote would not carry. Councilman Murphy reintroduced the original Motion to have any new property considered. Councilman Durham seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0.

New Business – A request was made from Oxford Chase Development for rezoning 206 & 210 S. Main Street to C-2 Commercial. Councilman Durham made a Motion to forward the request to the Hurlock Planning Commission. Councilman Cephas seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0.

The Planning Commission consists of David Wands, Arthur Jones, Mike Swann, David Carrier, and Vaughn Evans. The alternate is Jamie Monroe. Members of the Board of Appeals are Gary Seeds, Betty Lowe, Jack Lewis, and Bonnie Keplinger. With a vote of 4-0, the Board Members were approved.

Councilmembers Comments - Councilman Cephas thanked everyone that turned out for the Black List Awards night. The Mayor was not able to be in attendance and as an honoree Councilman Cephas wanted Councilman Murphy to present her with her award. Minister and Citizens held a food give-away and 276 people attended. There will be another one held later this month. Councilman Cephas thanked Ms. Bautz for the story and coverage of the event.

Councilman Murphy said that Mayor Spratt has been behind all endeavors of the Memorial Park and thanked her. He also stated the last performance of the Senior Class Play would be held that night and it is a wonderful play.

Councilman Durham reflected back on his time in Hurlock. He stated he has been involved in Hurlock for 25 years. He felt the people in Town went out of their way to be supportive. Councilman Durham encouraged the Town to continue to look into the issue of getting natural gas in the Town.

Mayor Spratt announced that on March 21st the Lions Club AYCE dinner will be held. The dinner raises money for a scholarship fund for North Dorchester High School.

Councilman Cephas stated they would miss Councilman Durham. He has always had a strong position.


Public Comments - Scott Lawrence asked what the process is for rezoning. Administrator Avery explained the process of advertising and having a public hearing.

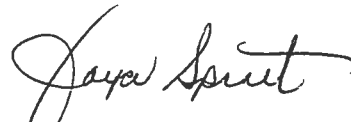
A question was asked regarding the replacement of Councilman Durham. Attorney Merriken replied that the Council would appoint someone to serve until the term expires. The position is for District 3.

Councilman Cephas made a Motion to move to closed session for personnel matters. A volunteer would be considered for contract labor. Councilman Murphy seconded the Motion and the Mayor stated they would not be returning to open session. With all in favor and no one opposed, the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectively submitted,


John Avery
Clerk/Treasurer


Approved: Mayor Spratt:

Council members:
Approved Open Session
April 13, 2015